



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 6:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - January 15, 2002**

- ***In the West***, spring runoff and summer water-supply prospects remain concerns in the ***Four Corners region***, where a dry spell is progressing through a seventh month. Meanwhile, mostly dry weather prevails in the ***Northwest***, following a two-month, drought-easing wet spell.
- ***On the Plains***, a lack of snow cover and dry conditions continue to leave winter wheat vulnerable to windy weather and temperature extremes. Near- to below-normal temperatures are overspreading the ***northern half of the region***, but warm weather prevails on the ***southern Plains***, where today's high temperatures are forecast to approach 70 degrees F.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, conditions remain favorable for livestock and off-season fieldwork, despite a cooling trend toward near-normal temperatures.
- ***In the South***, widespread showers are easing dry conditions across ***Florida's peninsula***. Elsewhere in the region, wet fields continue to gradually dry out in the ***Delta***, while previously dry pastures and winter grains continue to benefit from recent soil moisture improvements in the ***southern Atlantic region***.

**Outlook:** Several storm systems are forecast to cross the nation during the remainder of the week, bringing occasional snow to the ***Midwest and Northeast***, and rain to the ***South***. However, little or no precipitation is expected on the ***Plains*** and across the ***West***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for January 20-24 calls for cool weather to continue in areas from the ***Plains westward***, while above-normal temperatures are forecast to prevail across the ***South and East***. Mostly dry weather will persist across the ***Plains*** and ***Southwest***, but beneficial precipitation is forecast to return to the ***Northwest***. Wet weather is also likely across the ***South***.

**Contact:** Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)